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SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO.55/86, FOR 03/24/86

FRG PRESIDENT'S VISIT

1. WEST GERMAN PRESIDENT RICHARD VON WEIZSAECKER

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000

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CONCLUDED HIS STATE VISIT TO AUSTRIA ON MARCH 21 WITH A PRESS MEETING AND A TRIP TO BURGENLAND PROVINCE. WEIZSAECKER DESCRIBED AUSTRIA AS A MODEL FOR EUROPE AND STRESSED AUSTRIA'S SPECIAL ROLE IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS. PRESS REPORTS POINT TO WEIZSAECKER'S FREQUENT REFERENCES TO THE IDEA OF AN ALL-ENCOMPASSING EUROPE AND TO HIS STATEMENT THAT THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY SHOULD NOT BE A CLOSED ENTITY. (MOST PAPERS, E.G. INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, MARCH 22)

ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER IN VIENNA

2. ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AHMED TALEB IBRAHIMI HAD TALKS LASTING MORE THAN FOUR HOURS WITH AUSTRIAN COUNTERPART LEOPOLD GRATZ DURING A TWO-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT MARCH 20-21. APART FROM BILATERAL MATTERS SUCH AS CONTINUING AUSTRIAN ASSISTANCE IN THE MODERNIZATION OF ALGERIA'S RAILROAD SYSTEM, THE TWO MINISTERS DISCUSSED THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND IN AFRICA. THEY ALSO FOCUSED ON THE GULF WAR AND THE CONFLICTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. TALKING WITH JOURNALISTS, TALEB IBRAHIMI SAID THAT ALGERIA SUPPORTS LIBYA AS FAR AS THE CONFLICT WITH THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED AND WOULD NOT LIMIT ITSELF TO DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS IN CASE OF AN AMERICAN ATTACK ON LIBYA. HE FURTHER EXPRESSED HOPE FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE CHAD CONFLICT IN THE WAKE OF A MEETING BETWEEN HISSEIN HABRE AND GOUKONI OUEDDEI IN BRAZZAVILLE THIS WEEK. HE ALSO NOTED EFFORTS OF THE OAU TO REACH A SETTLEMENT OF THE WEST SAHARA CONTROVERSY. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, MARCH 22 AND 23; SOCIALIST AZ, MARCH 22)

YUGOSLAVIA'S PLANINC MEETING WITH SINOWATZ

3. YUGOSLAV PRIME MINISTER MILKA PLANINC ARRIVED IN VIENNA FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT ON MARCH 23. HER TALKS WITH CHANCELLOR FRED SINOWATZ ARE EXPECTED TO FOCUS ON BILATERAL RELATIONS SUCH AS EXPANDED ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, INCLUDING THE CSCE FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE IN VIENNA THIS FALL. THE SUBJECT OF THE SLOVENE MINORITY IN CARINTHIA IS ALSO EXPECTED TO BE BROUGHT UP BY THE YUGOSLAV VISITOR. (SOCIALIST AZ, INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, ET AL., MARCH 22 AND 24)

GRATZ COMMENTS ON EAST-WEST RELATIONS

4. IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRESENTATION OF THE 1985 FOREIGN POLICY REPORT LAST WEEK, FOREIGN MINISTER LEOPOLD GRATZ EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT ABOUT THE STATE OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS, SAYING THAT EXPECTATIONS AFTER THE SUPERPOWER SUMMIT IN GENEVA HAD OBVIOUSLY BEEN TOO HIGH.

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GRATZ ALSO STATED THAT AUSTRIA FAVORS AN EARLY AGREEMENT ON A TOTAL NUCLEAR TEST STOP, BUT HE RULED OUT AN AUSTRIAN APPEAL TO THE UNITED STATES TO TAKE UP THE SOVIET PROPOSALS BECAUSE "DEMONSTRATIVE PUBLIC STEPS" ARE USUALLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, SOCIALIST AZ, SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, MARCH 22) UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 04487

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WALDHEIM CASE

5. THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS IN NEW YORK DISCLOSED THIS WEEKEND THAT A RECENTLY UNCOVERED U.S. ARMY DOCUMENT OF 1948 LISTS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE **KURT WALDHEIM** AS A SUSPECTED WAR CRIMINAL SOUGHT BY YUGOSLAVIA. WALDHEIM REPLIED THAT THE CHARGES ARE COMPLETELY WITHOUT ANY FOUNDATION AND RECALLED THAT YUGOSLAVIA HAD TWICE VOTED FOR HIM AS U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL. THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONTROVERSY OVER THE WALDHEIM CANDIDACY ESCALATED OVER THE WEEKEND. SPO TOP REPRESENTATIVES, INCLUDING KARL BLECHA AND HEINZ FISCHER, OPENLY QUESTIONED WALDHEIM'S QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE PRESIDENCY. LEOPOLD GRATZ POINTED TO THE POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO AUSTRIA'S INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION BECAUSE OF THE WALDHEIM CASE. OVP SPOKESMEN HAD PREVIOUSLY CLAIMED THAT CHANCELLERY AIDE HANS PUSCH WAS MANAGING THE ANTI-WALDHEIM CAMPAIGN. (SOCIALIST AZ, INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE MARCH 22 AND 24; SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, MARCH 22 AND 23). BLOCH
END OF MESSAGE

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